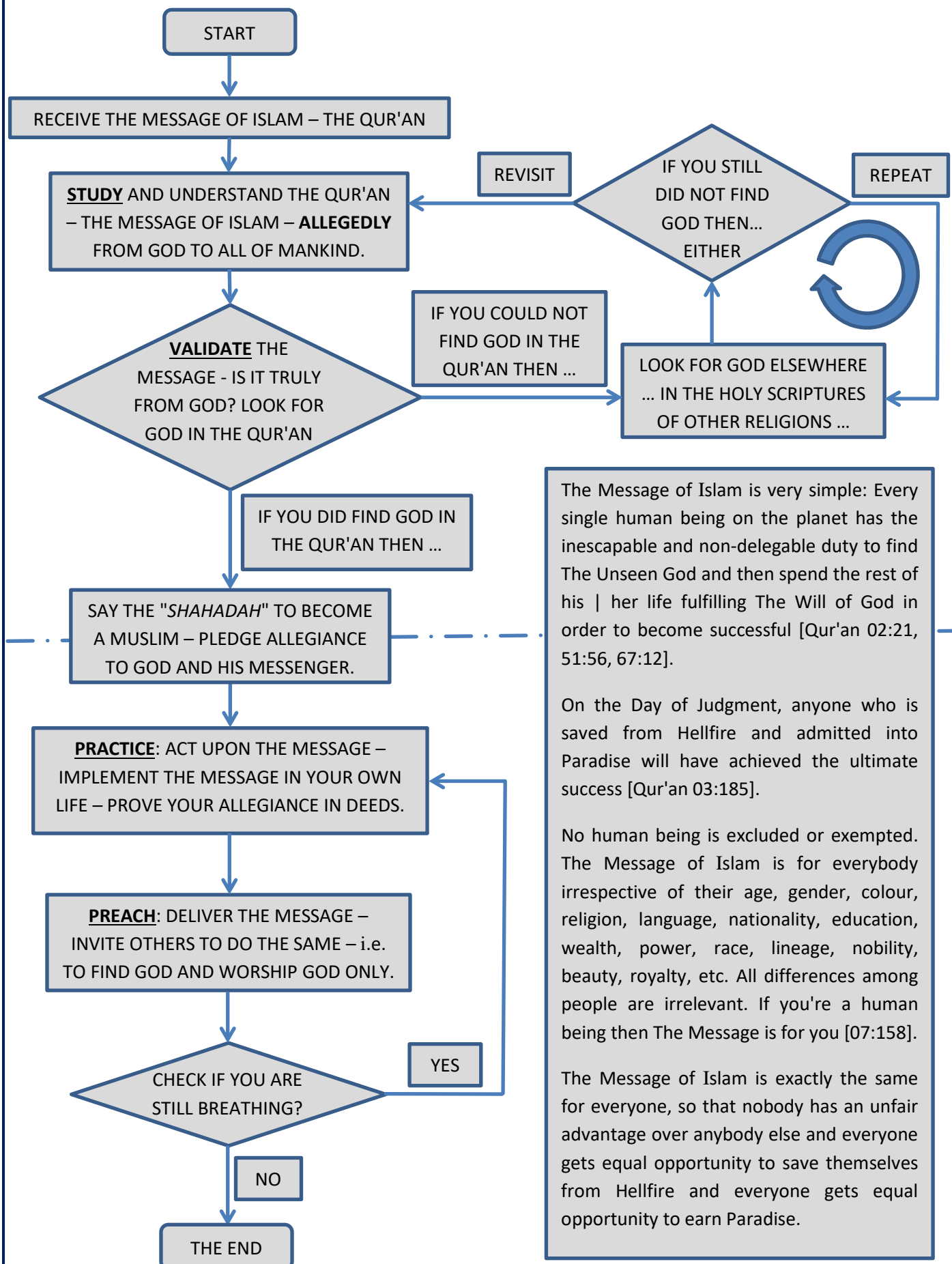


FLOWCHART OF HUMAN LIFE ON EARTH FROM AN ISLAMIC STANDPOINT



The Message of Islam is very simple: Every single human being on the planet has the inescapable and non-delegable duty to find The Unseen God and then spend the rest of his | her life fulfilling The Will of God in order to become successful [Qur'an 02:21, 51:56, 67:12].

On the Day of Judgment, anyone who is saved from Hellfire and admitted into Paradise will have achieved the ultimate success [Qur'an 03:185].

No human being is excluded or exempted. The Message of Islam is for everybody irrespective of their age, gender, colour, religion, language, nationality, education, wealth, power, race, lineage, nobility, beauty, royalty, etc. All differences among people are irrelevant. If you're a human being then The Message is for you [07:158].

The Message of Islam is exactly the same for everyone, so that nobody has an unfair advantage over anybody else and everyone gets equal opportunity to save themselves from Hellfire and everyone gets equal opportunity to earn Paradise.

The Fundamental Message of Islam

Do you ever wonder:-

- What is your higher Purpose in Life? Why do you exist? What gives Meaning to your Life?
- Is it Materialism? Self-Aggrandizement: Accrual of Wealth, Power, Fame, Be Number One. Accumulation.
- Is it Hedonism? Self-Indulgence - Pursuit of Pleasures: Just Play, have Fun and be Happy. Consumption.
- Is it Asceticism? Self-denial: Abstinence from all forms of Worldly Pleasures and Desires. Renunciation.
- Why is there Suffering in this World? Why do Bad Things happen to Good People?

The answers can be found in the Message of Islam. But you need an educated mind to understand the Message of Islam. To find out if you have an educated mind, here is the definition: - A quote attributed to Aristotle:

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

The Qur'an is the Message of Islam [14:52, 05:67, 39:23]. The Message is **allegedly** from God and it is for all of mankind [07:158]. The Message is divided into three parts: [1] What to do? [2] Why to do? And [3] How to do?

[1] What To Do?

When we start reading the Qur'an from the beginning, the very First Command that we encounter in it is the Summary of the entire Qur'an and the Fundamental Message of Islam. The First Command appears in the Verse:

[02:21] O mankind! Worship your Lord, [the One] Who created you and those [who came] before you, so that you may become Righteous.

Note that it is addressed to all of mankind irrespective of their gender, colour, age, religion, race, nationality, language, education, wealth, power, lineage, etc. Then it says: worship the Creator - but do we really know who our Creator is? The earlier people are also mentioned in it because some people say that they were created by their parents, so the Verse counters this argument by asking 'who created your parents and their parents and so on'? Since we don't know, we must find out who truly is our Creator? So the Verse is basically asking us to find out who is our true Creator and then spend the rest of our lives worshiping the Creator. Further it says that if we do this then we will become Righteous - these are the successful people [02:02~05], the ones who will live in Paradise for all eternity [03:15]. So the Message is Simple: **Find God and worship Only God in order to become successful.** That is our Purpose in Life. The Message is for everyone and it is exactly the same for all.

In Islam, worshiping God does not mean forsaking our worldly life and becoming an ascetic and start begging. God does not permit us to abandon all our wealth and possessions and cut off all our relations and live in isolation - that is forbidden. God expects us to live among people and fulfil all our obligations towards our parents, siblings, spouse, children, neighbours, friends, relatives, colleagues, employers, employees, customers, poor and needy people and the society in general. Religion and the worldly life are not two separate things; they are one and the same thing. Everything we do in this life, from birth to death, is deemed as worship or disobedience depending upon how we do the deeds. If we do things in a manner that is recommended by God then it is worship else it is disobedience. Islam tells us how to earn and how to spend, how to eat, what to eat and what not to eat, what to wear and how much to cover, how to satisfy our carnal instincts and with whom - what is permitted and what is forbidden. God does not expect self-annihilation or even self-denial from us. God expects only self-discipline from us. Islam is God's rule book about how to live life. Islam means submission to the Will of God. A Muslim is one who willingly submits to the Will of God. The Qur'an is the Will of God. [51:56].

[2] Why To Do?

We must "**Find God, our Creator, and willingly submit to the Will of God**" for the following reasons:

[A] To Protect the Rights of People: When we were born we did not choose our parents, gender, colour, race, nationality, religion, etc. All these decisions were made for us by God. We have inherited our religion from our

parents. This means that God has randomly distributed religions to people. So, how can we know whether we are living our lives according to the Will of God? If the people of only one religion are entitled to Paradise, by birth, then the people of all the other religions will burn in Hell for no fault of theirs. It would be unfair for God to punish us for following a religion which He chose for us. Everyone must get equal opportunity to earn Paradise. The Real God is never unjust to anybody, ever. So to level the playing field, a Real God must give the exact same Message to all the people since He created everyone. So it is everyone's Right and Duty to: Find God and fulfil the Will of God. The litmus test for finding God is that you never need to resort to falsehood to find God or obey God. The truth is that for which **you** have evidence [02:111]. Dig for evidence to know the truth and have the Courage to be Led by the truth. Making an informed choice, based on facts, is the democratic way.

[B] To Protect the Rights of God: It is the Real God Who is bestowing countless favours and blessings upon us during every single moment of our existence. God is maintaining the Structural and Functional Integrity of every cell, organ and system inside our body and they function only after getting His permission, at all times. God has made the universe subservient to mankind [45:12~13]. Hence it is utter ingratitude and injustice to worship someone or something on blind faith without demanding proof. The fictitious gods have no Power and no Influence to benefit you or harm you and you owe them nothing. You Owe Everything to The One True God.

[C] Hope of Reward and Fear of Punishment: God has made human beings superior in comparison to all His other creation and has given us the incredible brain with its enormous intellectual horsepower and the capacity to Reason and infinite Imagination and Creativity and Curiosity and eyes and ears [to perceive] and a heart [to feel and understand] and a tongue [with the Power of Language to communicate, collaborate, share viewpoints, teach and learn] and hands [to Build whatever we can imagine and to Solve Problems and to Overcome Obstacles] and legs [to go to Places]. God has already given us all the Tools and Resources we need for the 'Big Job'. And since the Challenge is huge, the Reward is also huge - Eternal life in Paradise [02:25] if we complete the Mission successfully. If you ignore the Message or fail to act on it then there is an equally great punishment for ingratitude - Life in Hellfire [02:39]. Islam changes our paradigm from blind faith to proof and evidence.

[3] How To Do?

The way to find the Unseen God is, to observe and study the Signs scattered by God all around us and within us and compare them to the Signs documented in the Qur'an. The Word of God and the Deed of God are not two different things; they are one and the same thing. If God wants something done, then all He has to do is Say: "**Be**" - and it happens [02:117, 03:47, 06:73, 16:40, 19:35, 36:82, 40:68]. If the Arabic Qur'an is the Word of God [the Creator] and the universe [the Creation] is the Deed of God then there should be neither any inconsistency nor any contradictions between the Qur'an and the universe. But remember that translations are human endeavours and hence they are never error-free. So either learn the Arabic language or refer to multiple translations to offset the mistakes in translations. Kudos! You are embarking on a journey in Pursuit of Truth. Here is the **Road Map** to find the Unseen God through His Signs and thus scientifically prove or disprove God:

STEP 1: Be Truly Honest with yourself. This is the Most Important step. Self-deception is self-annihilation. If you are Sincere and Humble, only then you will find God. God doesn't Guide scoundrels and show-offs.

STEP 2: Supplicate in Solitude. Ask for Divine Help. Don't wander alone. After all, what is the harm? Just uttering a few words is not going to hurt you or cost you in any way. You will not lose anything; you might only gain from Divine help. If after your death, you do find out that there indeed is a God, then you should be able to say to God that you sincerely did all in your power to find God and also begged for Divine help all along the way.

How to Supplicate? Just say Sincerely and Humbly when in Solitude: "*O God, if You truly exist, I seek refuge in You from the evil that lurks at every step of my journey in the Pursuit of Truth and I invoke You using all Your Chosen Names, please guide me to the Straight Path and open my heart to receive Your Guidance and make it easy for me to walk the Straight Path - the only Path that leads to Paradise and save me from the punishment of Hellfire*".

STEP 3: Finding that there is a God by studying the universe. Look at the Order in chaos, delicate Balance, Beauty, Creativity, Diversity, Complexity, Design and Architecture in Nature. Everything can't be a Coincidence.

STEP 4: Finding that there is only One God by studying the Qur'an and comparing it to the universe [21:21~25, 23:91, 17:42, 12:39 and 22:73]. The fundamental assumption is that no two minds can think identically at all times. If multiple minds are always thinking and behaving identically then only one of them is relevant and the rest are redundant. If there were multiple Gods then they would have fought with each other for Dominance like the Greek Pantheon and we would have seen physical signs of conflict and destruction in the universe. On the contrary, whatever destruction we do see is all caused by humans. Hence there must be Only One God.

STEP 5: Finding that Allah Is That One and Only True God by studying the Qur'an and comparing it to the Holy Scriptures of other Religions [04:82, 39:23, 17:88, 02:23, 10:37~38, 11:13~14, 52:33~34, 69:44~48]. The Qur'an is a Book which is eloquent, concise, comprehensive, self-validating and yet free of contradictions. See if you can find any other Scripture like it and if you can't find any then sit down and try to write one. If you fail at both the tasks [i.e. to find a book and to write a book] then know that this is The Book from The One True God.

Summary: So basically, all human beings [including Muslims] are supposed to spend their lives in two stages:

- ❖ **Search Mode | Pursuit of Truth:** Find out if there is a God. If there is, then which One is He? Do I have any evidence to validate my beliefs and thereby calm my restless heart and soothe my soul?
- ❖ **Submission Mode | Obedience Mode | Act upon the Truth:** Find out the Will of God – It is exactly the same for everybody. Submit to The Will of God: Live life fulfilling the Will of God, my Owner & Sustainer.

Finally, after receiving the Message of Islam, you will notice that all humans have **three** things in common:

- ✓ All have a common God, who is equally Merciful and Just to each and every one of His creation.
- ✓ All have common parents: Adam and Eve - so all human beings are truly brothers and sisters.
- ✓ All get the exact same Message | Mission: Find the Real God, Worship Him only. This is the Straight Path [03:51, 06:151~153, 19:36, 36:60~61, 43:61, 43:64, 01:05~06]. The Qur'an is the Straight Path.

Some of the Best Translations of the Qur'an and the *Hadith* books:

- 01] The Glorious Qur'an Word-for-Word ~ Dr. Shehnaz Shaikh, Ms. Kausar Khatr.
- 02] A Word For Word Meaning of The Qur'an ~ Muhammad Mohar Ali.
- 03] The Qur'an ~ Saheeh International Translation.
- 04] The Qur'an ~ M. A. S. Abdel Haleem.
- 05] The Noble Qur'an ~ Dr. Muhsin Khan, Dr. Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali.
- 06] The Holy Qur'an ~ Abdullah Yusuf Ali.
- 07] The Message of the Qur'an ~ Muhammad Asad.
- 08] The Meaning of the Glorious Qur'an ~ Marmaduke Pickthall.
- 09] The Qur'an ~ Dr. Thomas Ballantyne Irving [Dr. T. B. Irving].
- 10] Towards Understanding the Ever-Glorious Qur'an ~ Muhammad Mahmud Ghali.
- 11] Fi Dhilal Al Qur'an [In the Shade of the Qur'an] ~ Sayyid Qutb.
- 12] Tafseer As-Sa'di ~ International Islamic Publishing House, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 13] Tafheem UL Qur'an [The Meaning of the Qur'an] ~ Sayyid Abul A'la Mawdudi.
- 14] Tafsir Ibn Kathir ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 15] Sahih Al-Bukhari ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 16] Sahih Muslim ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 17] Mishkaat Al-Masaabih ~ Darul Isha'at, Karachi, Pakistan.
- 18] Jami At-Tirmidhi ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 19] Sunan Abu-Dawud ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 20] Sunan An-Nasai ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 21] Sunan Ibn Majah ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 22] Mu'atta Imam Malik ~ Darul Isha'at, Karachi, Pakistan.
- 23] Musnad Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal ~ Darussalam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- 24] Qur'an *Tafseer* [Exegesis] on YouTube in English and Urdu by:
Dr. Israr Ahmed ; Dr. Farhat Hashmi ; Engineer Muhammad Ali Mirza ; Mufti Ismael Musa Menk.

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Disclaimer: It is forbidden in Islam to insult any religion or hurt anyone's sentiments [06:108]. This content is strictly **not** intended to spread malice. It is only an attempt to present the Islamic Viewpoint.